

Appl. No. 09/822,167
Amdt. dated August 22, 2005
Reply to final Office action of June 21, 2005

REMARKS

I. CLAIM STATUS

Claims 1-5, 7-22, and 24-34 are pending. Claim 34 has been amended.

Claims 8-11 and 25 have been objected to as depending from rejected base claims.

Claims 12-15, 17-19, 26-29, and 31-33 have been allowed.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 20, 22, and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,308,205 ("Carcerano"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because the cited art fails to teach each element of the claims as is required for rejections of this type.

Claims 3, 5, and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carcerano in view of U.S. Patent App. 2001/0032273 ("Cheng"). Claims 16 and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carcerano in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,192,372 ("Yamaura"). Claim 34 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carcerano in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,555,536 ("Rolf"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because the cited art fails to teach or suggest each limitation of the claims as is required for rejections of this type.

The examiner reasons that Carcerano anticipates the present invention because its title includes the words "updated configuration of network devices" and it talks "multiple times about requests from a work station/device(s) to the configuration management system/database which then configures the workstation/device(s) in the network." (Office action, mailed on June 21, 2005, paragraph 20). However, independent claim 1 recites "receiving a synchronization request from an electronic device that is to be configured in accordance with the configuration information." Carcerano fails to disclose the present invention as disclosed in independent claim 1 for the following reasons.

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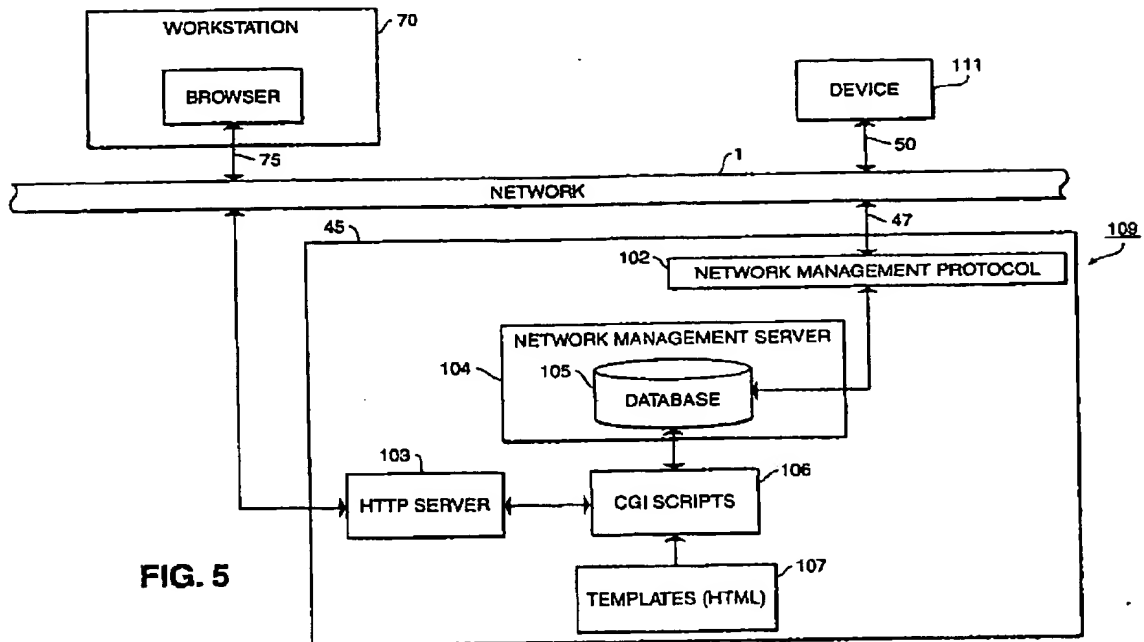


FIG. 5

First, while Carcerano mentions "requests," the "requests" in Carcerano are those made by the browser 83 to the HTTP server 103. (See Carcerano Fig. 5, reproduced above). The network devices 111 in Carcerano do not send out any requests and are merely polled by the network management system 104 in order to maintain a database 105 representing their configuration. Col. 9, lines 15-20. Therefore, none of the "requests" in Carcerano were "*from an electronic device that is to be configured*" as disclosed in independent claim 1 of the present application.

Moreover, independent claim 1 recites providing device configuration information from the database in response to the "synchronization request *from an electronic device that is to be configured.*" In other words, the electronic device initiates the transfer of configuration information, and the transfer from the database is responsive to that electronic device. Conversely, Carcerano discloses a system where:

[i]n order to change the status or configuration of a managed device ... browser 83 on a work station 70 sends a URL-encoded request to HTTP server 103 including updated configuration data for a targeted device. In response, HTTP server 103 calls the CGI script identified in the URL for the request. The CGI script updates database 105

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according to the configuration request ... [The] network management server 104 next updates devices on network 1 in accordance with database 105.

Col. 11, lines 52-61. (emphasis added)

Therefore, the synchronization request in Carcerano is received from the browser, not *from an electronic device that is to be configured* as recited in independent claim 1 of the present application.

The cited art (Carcerano, Cheng, Yamaura, and Rolf) does not here or elsewhere teach or suggest that *the electronic device being configured* would send a synchronization request and be configured according to the configuration information as required by the claim. For at least this reason, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5, 7, and 16 are allowable over the cited art.

Similarly, independent claim 20 recites "*receiving a synchronization request from the electronic device*; and providing device configuration information from the database to the electronic device in response to the synchronization request." The examiner relies on the previously cited portion of Carcerano to anticipate this limitation. As noted above, no requests are sent from the network device in Carcerano and the user (through the browser), not the network device, initiates the device configuration in Carcerano. The cited art does not here or elsewhere teach or suggest that the electronic device to be configured sends a synchronization request and receives device configuration information as required by the claim. For at least this reason, independent claim 20 and its dependent claims 21-22, 24, and 30 are allowable over the cited art.

Independent claim 34 has been amended to recite in part "providing device configuration information from the database to the electronic device *upon request by said electronic device*." As discussed above, Carcerano fails to teach providing device configuration information from an online database to the electronic device *upon request by said electronic device* as the process in Carcerano is initiated by a request from the browser on the user's work station. For at least this reason, Carcerano and Rolf fail to teach all limitations of independent claim 34 making this claim allowable over the cited art.

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III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

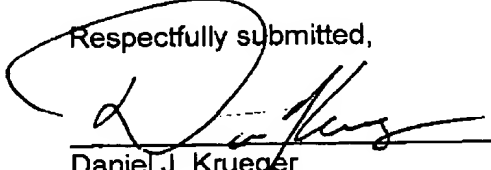
The examiner indicated that claims 12-15, 17-19, 26-29, and 31-33 are in condition for allowance. The examiner further indicated that claims 8-11 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten to avoid dependence on rejected base claims. Applicants have deferred amending claims 8-11 and 25 pending the prosecution outcome on their base claims.

IV. CONCLUSION

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,


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